



Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Edgar Blatchford
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NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioner Edgar Blatchford Appointed to the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission

(Anchorage) – The Attorney General announced recently the appointment of Edgar Blatchford, Commissioner of the State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, to the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission.

As a lifelong Alaskan and advocate for rural Alaska, the Commissioner will be statutorily designated as the state co-chair on the Commission.

“I am honored with this appointment and feel it is an opportunity to examine the criminal justice needs of rural Alaska and the issues facing rural Alaskans,” said Blatchford. “It is an opportunity to address the problems of domestic violence and child abuse, alcohol and substance abuse controls and treatment options, maximize existing resources, and assist communities in improving law enforcement and justice in rural Alaska.”

Blatchford was born in Nome and was appointed by Governor Frank H. Murkowski as Commissioner of the Department of Commerce in 2003. He served as the Commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs under the Hickel Administration, and was previously a two-term Mayor of Seward. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage in the Department of Journalism and Public Communications.

Commissioner Blatchford has served on the board of directors for Chugach Alaska Corporation since 1978. He is Vice Chair of Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority, and is on the board of directors for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; Alaska Railroad Corporation; Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation; Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute; Municipal Bond Bank Authority; Oil & Gas Royalty Board; and State Bond Committee.

Blatchford has a Master of Science in Journalism from Columbia University, a Juris Doctorate from the University of Washington School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts from Alaska Methodist University.

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